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Tim W Hayes 03/02/2007 04:22:03 PM From DB/Inbox: Tim W Hayes

Cable  
Text:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 00343

SIPDIS  
CX:

ACTION: PMA  
INFO: POL DCM DAO RAO ECON TSR FCS CONS AMB PA

DISSEMINATION: PMA /1  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PMA:CSEIBENTRITT  
DRAFTED: PMA:CERICH  
CLEARED: LEGATT- DGUERRERO

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0993  
INFO RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000343

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/15/2017  
TAGS: [KNNP](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [TU](#)  
SUBJECT: TURKS ASK FOR MORE JUSTIFICATION FOR WMD TASK  
FORCE MOU

REF: STATE 17741

Classified By: Pol-Mil Counselor Carl Siebentritt, reasons 1.4 (b/d)

¶1. (C) Summary: ISN/WMD Office Director Thomas Lehrman presented a draft MOU on the creation of a bilateral Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Terrorism Enforcement Task Force to Serhan Yigit, Head of Section, MFA Department of Arms Control and Disarmament on February 13 on the margins of the Ankara meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

Yigit requested any additional points we could provide on the benefits to the GOT of such an MOU. He cautioned that GOT agreement would take time because other agencies' approval would be required. End summary.

¶2. (C) Lehrman, who was joined by FBI WMD Countermeasures Unit Chief Jeff Muller and Embassy LEGATT, stressed that the proposed MOU would benefit Turkey by fostering faster communication and enhanced cooperation with the U.S. on potential WMD terrorism. Lehrman noted that this was a pilot proposal, contained no fixed term, and that GOT comments on the draft would be welcome.

¶3. (C) Yigit initially questioned why such an MOU was necessary when current bilateral cooperative agreements including a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) were already in place. He asked if the U.S. was experiencing difficulties in communication with Turkish authorities on terrorism-related law enforcement matters. Yigit requested more specific points on what the MOU would accomplish and why it would be beneficial to Turkey. With a more focused justification, he said, he could better make the case for the agreement outside the MFA. Yigit explained that because the MFA would have to present the MOU draft to several other GOT agencies, time would be required to receive approval.

¶4. (C) LEGATT replied that bilateral cooperation was very

good and that the U.S. was not currently experiencing difficulties communicating with Turkish authorities on terrorism enforcement issues. However, the nature and scope WMD terrorism required a new kind of bilateral cooperation, he said. Lehrman emphasized that cooperation with the GOT on terrorism was excellent, but underscored that WMD threats required taking our communication "to the next level." Lehrman agreed that ISN/WMD would provide additional points on the benefits of the MOU to MFA for its use in seeking interagency agreement within the GOT, and that these points would be transmitted to MFA via the Embassy.

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